

**Advisory Council on the Environment
Waste Management Subcommittee**

**Notes of the 16th Meeting
Held on 3 December 2007 at 2:30 pm**

Present

Prof. Poon Chi-sun (Chairman)
Mr. Edwin Lau
Dr. Man Chi-sum
Mr. Tsang Kam-lam
Dr. Yau Wing-kwong
Mr. Te Chi-wang (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies

Prof. Howard Huang
Mr. James Graham
Dr. Ng Cho-nam
Mr. Simon Wong

In Attendance

Mr. Raymond Fan	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection
Mr. Alfred Lee	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Management Policy)
Dr. Cherie Lee	Environmental Protection Officer
Dr. Lawrence Wong	Principal Environmental Protection Officer [Item 3]
Ms. Ellen Yang	Wing Han Education Foundation Ltd. [Item 4]
Mr. Angus Ho	Greeners Action [Item 4]
Mr. Chan Chi-Kwong	Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People (Wong Tai Sin) [Item 4]

Action

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. The draft minutes of the 15th meeting held on 24 September 2007 were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

Building Regulations

2. The matter was to be discussed under Agenda Item 3.

Agenda Item 3: Proposed Amendments of Building Regulations

3. The Chairman welcomed Dr. Lawrence Wong to the meeting. Dr. Lawrence Wong briefed Members on progress of the amendments of the Building Regulations, and highlighted the following points:
 - a) there had already been an economic incentive in the existing provisions of the Building Regulations, under which floor-based refuse storage and material recovery rooms were exempted from the calculation of gross floor area; yet, the building sector had been lukewarm in responding to this incentive so far;
 - b) we proposed to amend the Building Regulations so as to make the provision of floor-based refuse storage and material recovery rooms mandatory in new domestic buildings, with certain exemptions for small-scale developments; and
 - c) the building sector generally supportive, and it was our plan to submit the amended Regulations into the Legislative Council within this legislative session, with a view to implementing them by the end of this year.
4. Two Members supported the proposal, noting that floor-based facilities were important for the implementation of waste separation at source. A Member also supported the proposal as the economic incentive under the existing Regulations was apparently not too effective. The Chairman further suggested that guidelines on design of the floor-based refuse storage and material recovery rooms could also be provided.

Agenda Item 4: Funding Applications under the Public Education Programme of the “Policy Framework the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (Paper WMSC 13/07)

5. The Chairman noted that six applications had been received and the applicants had been invited to attend the meeting to present their proposals.
6. A Member declared interests as the person in-charge of Tai Po Environmental Association, which had submitted two applications. Except for the presentation of the organization’s applications, he would withdraw from the meeting. The Chairman also declared that he was acquainted with one of the representatives, who would present Caritas’ proposal. He would abstain from the discussion of Caritas’ proposal.
7. Representatives of Tai Po Environmental Association, Greeners Action and Caritas made presentations on their respective proposals. Members’ comments on the proposals were summarized at Annex¹. After deliberation, it was agreed that three applications (*PEP 011, 015 & 016*) were recommended for further consideration by the Environment and Conservation Fund Committee, while one application (*PEP 014*) was supported in principle, subject to sufficient support from the food trade.

Secretary

[*Post-meeting note:* The ECF Committee endorsed the three recommended proposals on 15 January 2008.]

Agenda Item 5: Progress of Key Initiatives in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (Paper WMSC 14/07)

8. Mr. Alfred Lee briefed Members on the progress of key initiatives in the Policy Framework. In particular, he noted

¹ The reasons for supporting or not supporting an application will be made known to the project proponent only.

that the Product Eco-responsibility Bill would be submitted to the Legislative Council very shortly, with the environmental levy on plastic shopping bags as the first producer responsibility scheme (PRS) under the Bill. On waste electrical and electronic equipment, he said that the Administration was liaising with the trade to devise voluntary PRS's to complement the robust second-handed market. While HDTV broadcast would be rolled out in phases, it was not envisaged that there would be an immediate and massive replacement of television sets. On municipal solid waste charging, Mr. Alfred Lee said that a comprehensive baseline survey was necessary to better understand the waste generation pattern and to develop charging options for public consultation. The Chairman noted that MSW charging was a key initiative for waste reduction, and the survey should proceed as a matter of urgency.

9. On the development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF), Mr. Raymond Fan informed Members that the site search report would be released very shortly. A public engagement process would follow to better educate the public on the IWMF. While noting that much work had been done on 3R's, A Member opined that other waste reduction and recycling initiatives were also needed in parallel to compliment the development of the IWMF. A Member added public buy-in on the IWMF was crucial. Noting the imminence of our waste problem, the Chairman urged the Administration to proceed with the construction of the IWMF as a matter of priority.

Agenda Item 6: Date of Next Meeting

10. Noting that this was the last meeting in 2007, the Chairman thanked Members for their efforts through the year. The Secretary tabled a tentative meeting schedule for 2008 for Members' consideration.

[*Post-meeting note:* The tentative meeting schedule (3 March, 2 June, 22 September and 8 December) was confirmed.]

ACE Waste Management Subcommittee
Secretariat
January 2008

Comments on Funding Applications

Titles	Applicant	Comments*
Green Rural Waste Reduction Scheme (Ref. PEP 011)	Tai Po Environmental Association	• Supported for further consideration.
Amazing Journey of Waste (Ref. PEP 015)	Tai Po Environmental Association	• Supported for further consideration.
Computer Printers, Scanners and Accessories (PSA) Collection, Reuse and Recycle Campaign 2008 (Ref. PEP 016)	Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People – Wong Tai Sin, Youth and Community Service.	• Supported for further consideration.
Save Food Project (Ref. PEP 014)	Greeners Action	• Supported for further consideration in principle subject to further information.
Green School Education – Recycling Plastic Bag recovery and recycling (Ref. PEP 012)	Wing Han Educational Foundation Limited	• Not supported.
Reuse 60 Action (Ref. PEP 013)	Greeners Action	• Not supported.

* The reasons for supporting or not supporting an application will be made known to the project proponent only.